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COMICS PRESENTS

THE MAXX

Story • Pencils • Inks

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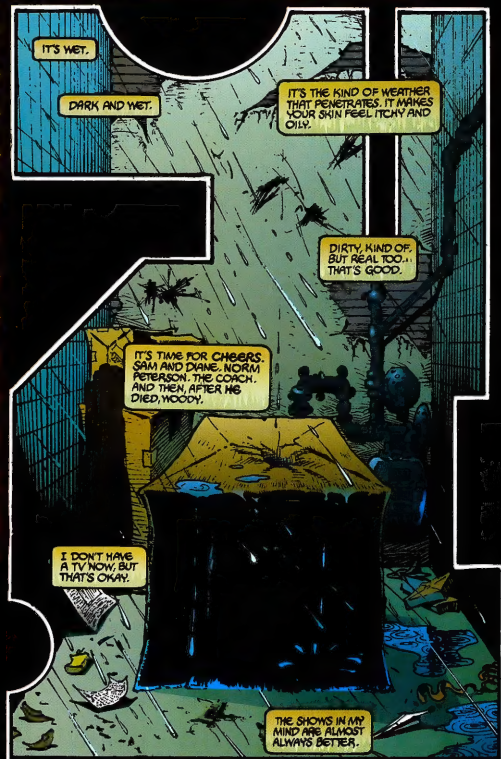
DOUG GRIFFITH

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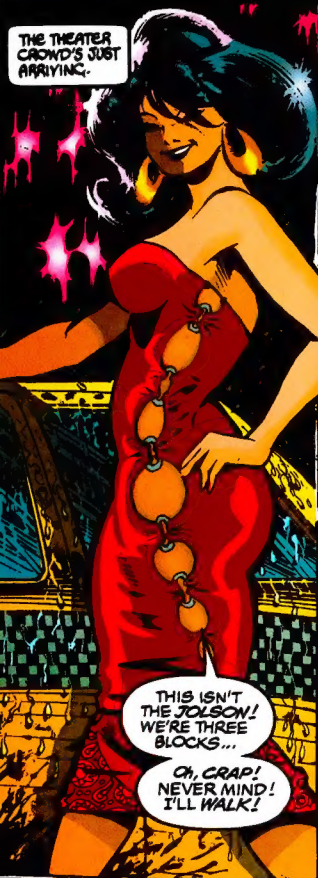


M A X X

CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!



THE THEATER
CROWD'S JUST
ARRIVING.



THIS ISN'T
THE JOLSON!
WE'RE THREE
BLOCKS...

OH, CRAP!
NEVER MIND!
I'LL WALK!



IDIOT. DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW HIS
OWN STUPID
BUSINESS.

LOOK IT.
YEAH. RENNY
DELIVERS. DON'T
HE?



THE SKINNY ONE'S
TEBGO. THE BIG
ONE'S FRIDGE.



THEY BEAT PEOPLE
UP. TAKE THEIR
MONEY. KILL THEM
SOMETIMES.

THE CAB DRIVER
GETS A THIRD.

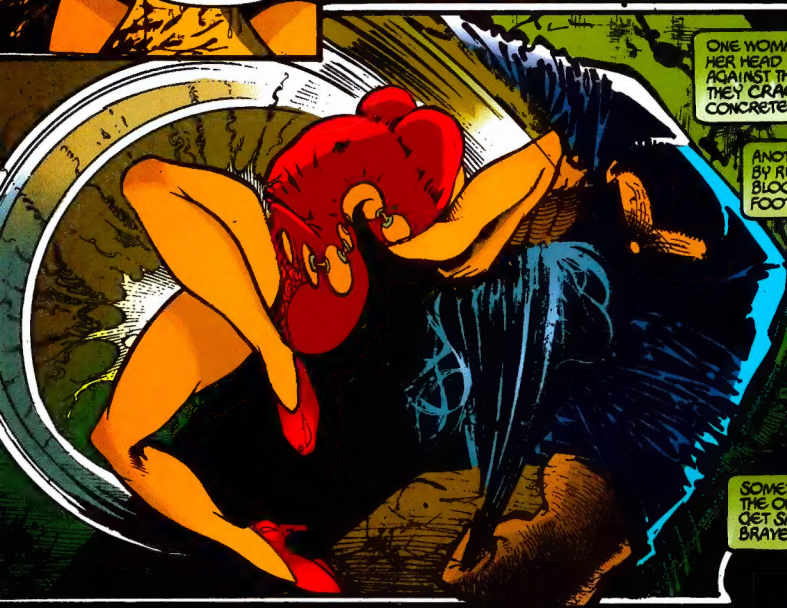


I'M GOING TO
MISS THE CURTAIN.
IF HE DOESN'T
KNOW THE CITY,
I DON'T SEE HOW
HE CAN GET A
LICENSE!

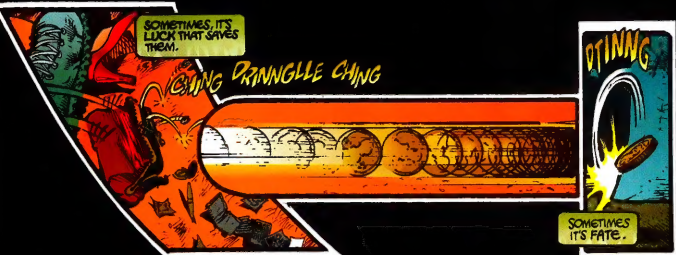


ONE WOMAN. THEY BEAT
HER HEAD SO HARD
AGAINST THE SIDEWALK,
THEY CRACKED THE
CONCRETE.

ANOTHER GOT AWAY
BY RUNNING THREE
BLOCKS ON A BROKEN
FOOT.



SOMETIMES THAT'S
THE ONLY WAY PEOPLE
GET SAVED. SUICIDAL
BRavery.

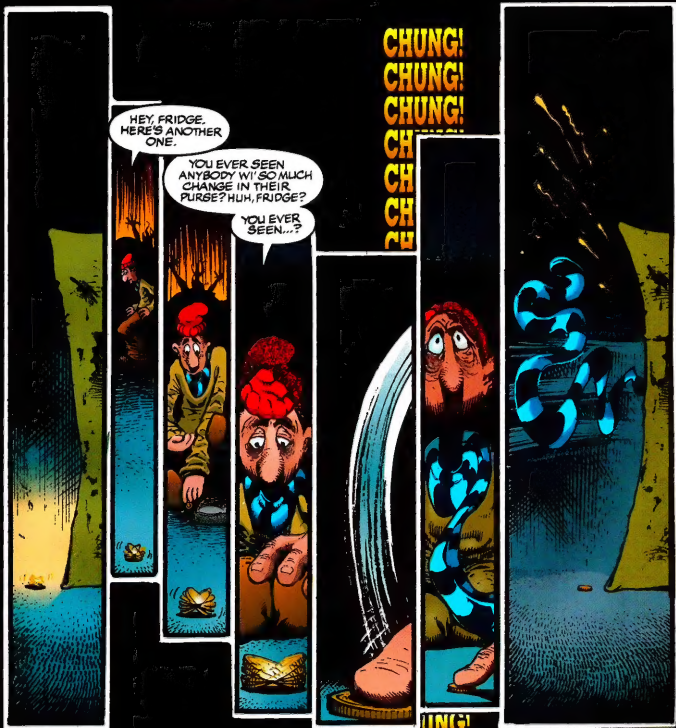


SOMETIMES, IT'S
LUCK THAT SAVES
THEM.

CHING DRINNGLE CHING

DTINNG

SOMETIMES
IT'S FATE.



HEY, FRIDGE,
HERE'S ANOTHER
ONE.

YOU EVER SEEN
ANYBODY W/ SO MUCH
CHANGE IN THEIR
PURGE? HUH, FRIDGE?

YOU EVER
SEEN...?

CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CH
CH
CH
CH

CHUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!

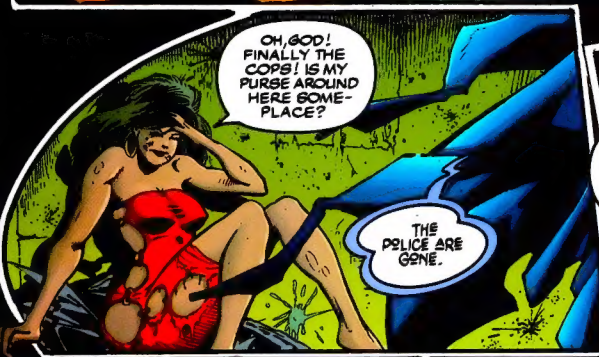




AND SOMETIMES IT'S US!

OKAY, EVERYBODY FREEZE!

DAMN. I WAS TALKING OUT LOUD AGAIN.



OH, GOD! FINALLY THE COPS! IS MY PURSE AROUND HERE SOME-PLACE?

THE POLICE ARE GONE.



THAT BUM IN THE MASK WAS TRYING TO HELP ME.

D'YOU THINK I SHOULD GIVE HIM SOME MONEY?



AFTER ALL, I COULD'VE BEEN RAPED AND MURDERED.



HEY, YOU'RE NOT...



NO. I'M NOT.



SAY, TODD. D'YOU REMEMBER A WOMAN BACK THERE...?

CHUNG!

CHU!

NAH, IF THERE WAS A VICTIM OR SOMETHIN' WE'D'VE SEEN HER.

I GUESS, WHAT'LL WE DO WITH LAUGHING BOY?

LET'S DROP HIM AT COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH.

COUNTY'S FULL.

HOW 'BOUT ST. JUDE'S PSYCHIATRIC?

THEY DON'T HAVE ANY ROOM EITHER.

WELL, WE GOTTA DROP HIM SOMEWHERE. HE ONLY THREATENED FRIDGE.

YEAH, I ALMOST ENVY HIM.

REALLY? WHYS THAT?

'CAUSE THE WORLD'S AWFUL. IT MUST BE GREAT T'DO ANY-THING YOU WANT AN' HAVE OTHER PEOPLE CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.

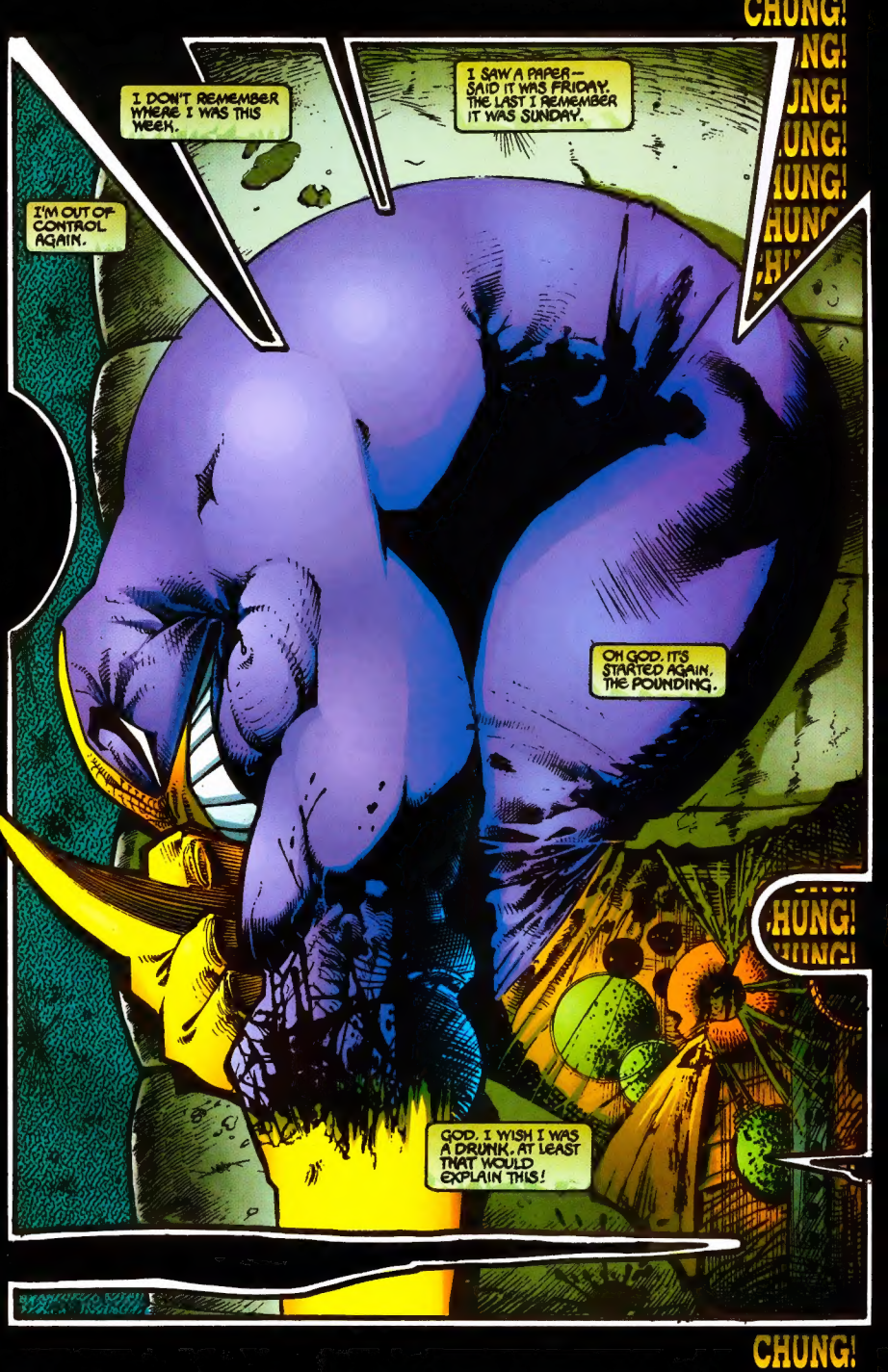
YEAH, LIKE US.

HUNG!
HUNG!

WUMP

I HATE THIS.

HUNG!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!



I DON'T REMEMBER
WHERE I WAS THIS
WEEK.

I SAW A PAPER—
SAID IT WAS FRIDAY.
THE LAST I REMEMBER
IT WAS SUNDAY.

I'M OUT OF
CONTROL
AGAIN.

OH GOD, IT'S
STARTED AGAIN.
THE POUNDING.

GOD, I WISH I WAS
A DRUNK, AT LEAST
THAT WOULD
EXPLAIN THIS!

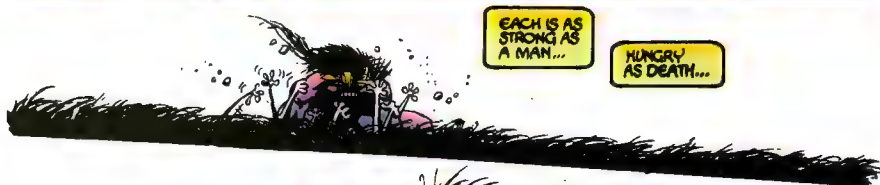
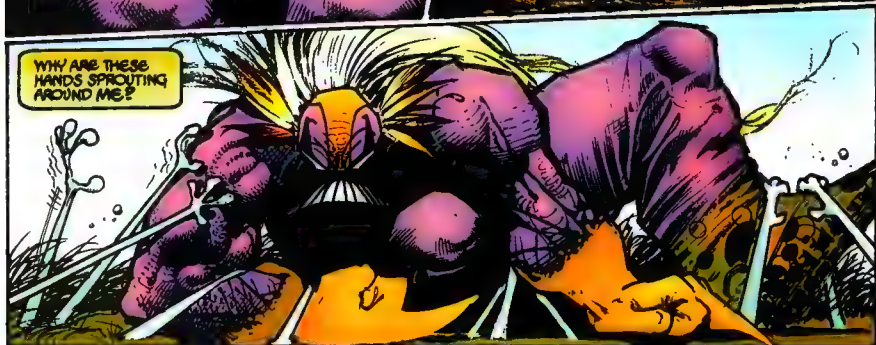
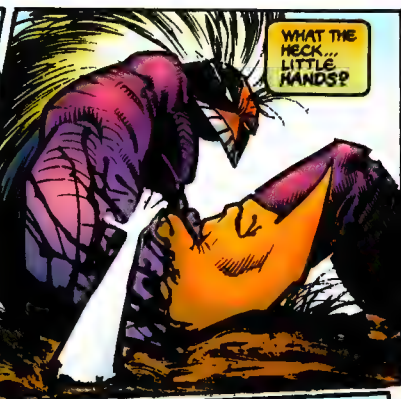
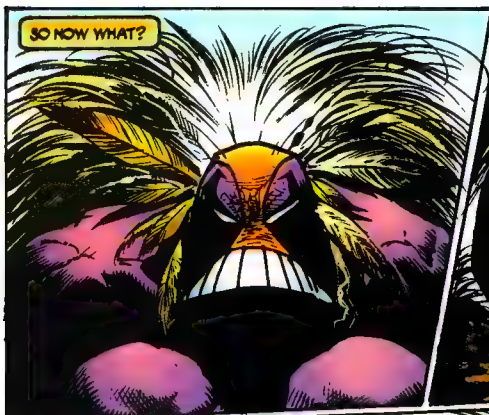
CHUNG!
UNG!
UNG!
UNG!
HUNG!
HUNG!

HUNG!
HUNG!

CHUNG!



GREAT. WHERE
THE HECK AM
I NOW?



STARTING TO FADE...
IT'S STARTING TO COME
BACK TO ME NOW...
BACK TO AUSTRALIA

NO, THE REAL AUSTRALIA.
THE SMOKING CAVES.
THE GODS WHO EAT
MOUNTAINS, THE FLYING
DRAGONS, THE RIVERS
OF GOLD, THE
LEOPARD QUEEN.

TAUNTING ME... ALMOST
AN ENEMY... BEAUTIFUL AND
FERAL AS THE GREAT
BEASTS SHE RUNS WITH,
STILL SHE INSPIRES ME...

NOT THE AUSTRALIA
THEY TEACH YOU ABOUT...
MELBOURNE, SYDNEY,
THE OUTBACK...

FOR HER I
CAN BE...

...A HERO!

SO, HERE'S
THE FIRST
QUESTION.

"IF YOU WERE
LOST IN AN
AIRPORT, WHAT'S
THE FIRST THING
YOU'D DO?"

THESE
QUESTIONS
JUST HELP
US GET TO
KNOW YOU.
SO...?

I
NEVER
BEEN IN A
AIRPORT.

OH, GOODY.
I'LL JUST MARK
THAT RIGHT
DOWN.

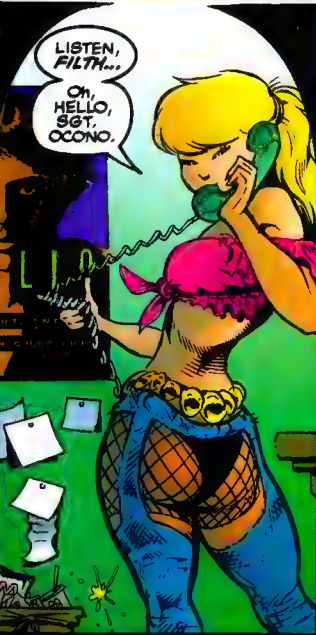
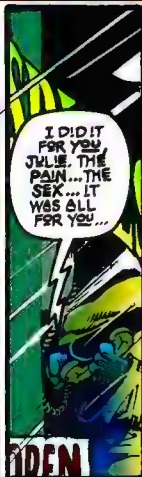
WUM...

I NEVER SEEN
A SOCIAL WORKER
WHO DRESSED LIKE
YOU, NEITHER.
SORTA LIKE A
HOOKER.

THANKS FOR
SHARING THAT.
I'LL TAKE IT
UNDER ADVISE-
MENT.

KEEPING IN
MIND THAT I HAVE
A JOB. WHILE YOU
HAVE A BLANKET
WITH VOMIT
ON IT.





SO HERE
I AM AGAIN,
BAILING HIM
OUT.

ASSAULT AND
BATTERY, BREAKING
AND ENTERING,
ATTEMPTED MURDER.
EVERYTIME IT'S
SOMETHING DIFFER-
ENT. HE REALLY
THINKS HE'S SOME
KIND OF **FLAMING**
SUPERHERO.

NOT
THAT THE CITY
COULDN'T **USE**
ONE!

HI, OCONO.
YOU GOTTA
PACKAGE HERE
FOR ME?

YEAH. YOU
SHOULDN'T HANG
AROUND WITH
THESE **CREEPS**.
MISS JULIE. THERE
WAS ANOTHER
RAPE LAST
NIGHT.

IF YOU
DON'T **ACT**
STUPID,
YOU DON'T
GET
RAPED.

BLAME
THE VICTIM.
WHY DONCHA?

IT'S A HARD WORLD,
OCONO. THERE'S ALWAYS
ENOUGH **BLAME** T'GO
AROUND.



HEY,
MAXX.

IT'S GETTING
HARDER AND
HARDER TO *BUY*
YOU OUTTA HERE.
YOU ALMOST *CUT*
OFF BAKER'S
FINGER THIS
TIME.

I
DIDN'T DO
IT.

WELL,
HE JUST
GOT TWELVE
STITCHES
TO HOLD
HIS HAND
TOGETHER.

IF IT
WASN'T YOU,
THEN WHO
DID IT?

IT
WAS THE
MASK.

RIGHT.

I
WARNED
HIM NOT
TO GET TOO
CLOSE.


LET'S
JUST DROP
IT, OKAY?

YOU
NEED SOME NEW
CLOTHES, SOME
FOOD AND A HOT
BATH.


OKAY, BUT
NO BUBBLES
THIS TIME.



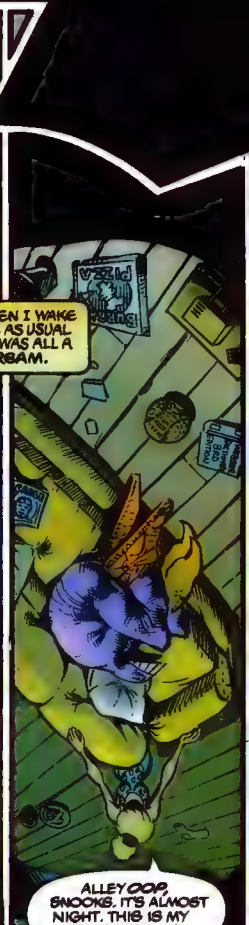
THEY COME OUT
OF THE GROUND...
PULLING ME
DOWN...



I HAVE TO FIGHT
BACK, OR BE
DESTROYED!



THEN I WAKE
UP, AS USUAL
IT WAS ALL A
DREAM.

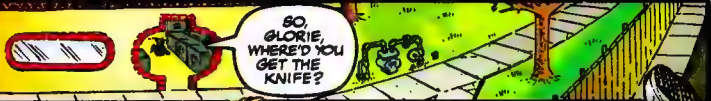


ALLEY OOP,
SNOOKS. IT'S ALMOST
NIGHT. THIS IS MY
HOUSE. NOT A
HOTEL.



I BOUGHT
YOU A COAT AND
HAT, SO YOU WON'T
BE QUITE SO
CONSPICUOUS.

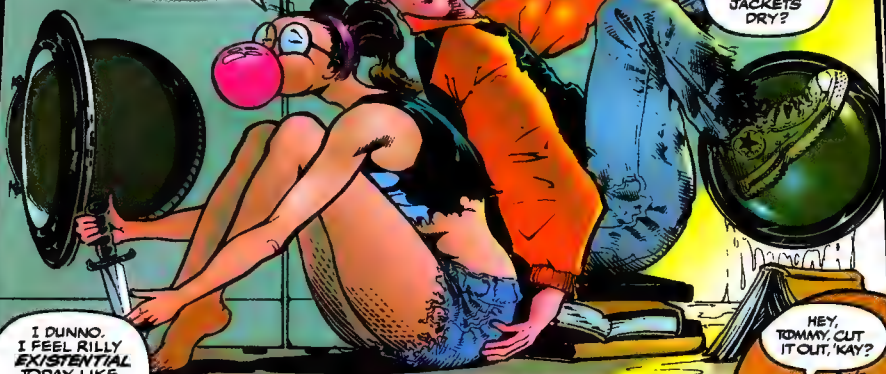
NOT THAT BEING
LARGE, VIOLENT,
PURPLE AND YELLOW
ISN'T A GOOD
DISGUISE...



SO, GLORIE, WHERE'D YOU GET THE KNIFE?

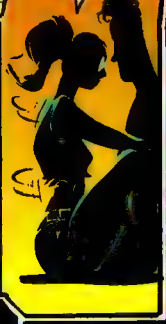
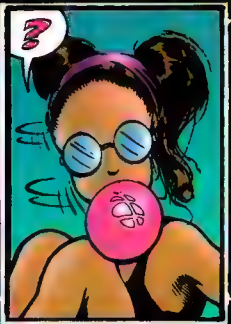
FROM MY POP. F.R. PROTECTION. HE SAYS IT'S DANGEROUS AROUND HERE.

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WHILE THE JACKETS DRY?



I DUNNO. I FEEL RILLY EXISTENTIAL TODAY. LIKE DABBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE OR SOMETHIN'!

HEY, TOMMY, CUT IT OUT, 'KAY?



JUST 'CAUSE WE'RE DRYING OUR JACKETS TOGETHER DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TOUCHING PRIVILEGES.

SURE, GLORIE.

GET US SOME COOKES, 'KAY, AN' COOL OFF!



GEEZ, DON'T GET MAD.



THAT TOMMY, WHATTA DOOF!

BUT HE'S A SWEET DOOF...



Huh?



THE MACHINES BEGIN
TO LEAK AND BURN
IN MY PRESENCE

WHO'S
THERE....?

I CAN HEAR
THE BEATING
OF HER HEART.

SHE IS LIKE A SMALL,
DELICIOUS SLUG. I
HAVE ONLY TO CLOSE
MY HAND TO POSSESS
HER.

CRAP.

HI,
HONEY, I'M
HOME.

MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP!
MEEP



TRY NOT
TO GET INTO
ANY FIGHTS,
OKAY, MAXX?

THE WOMAN I
SAVED YESTERDAY
WAS RAPED AND
MUTILATED. IT SAID
SO ON THE NEWS. I
HAVE TO DO SOME-
THING ABOUT
THAT.

SPOKEN LIKE A
TRUE FANATIC! A FEW
WOMEN WHO CAN'T
TAKE CARE OF THEM-
SELVES GET MESSED
WITH AND YOU RIDE
TO THE RESCUE!

WHO ARE
YOU TO ASSUME
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THEIR
LIVES?

I AM
THE MAXX.
ANSWER YOUR
PHONE.

HULLO?

THE OTHERS
CRY OUT FOR YOU,
JILLIE WINTERS!
THEIR SCREAMS OF
AGONY ARE THE
KISSES THAT I
PLACE ALONG
YOUR NECK!

THAT'S...VERY
INTERESTING.
TELL ME MORE.

STUDY
#47041

CALL
SAM
#47041

DEPT
#47041

DOUBTLESS ONE
OF YOUR FRIENDS IN
THE POLICE DEPART-
MENT HAS TAPPED
THIS LINE...

NO MATTER,
I AM HAVING
A... SERVANT
OF MINE
PLACE THIS
CALL!



HEY, DON'T I KNOW THAT GUY?

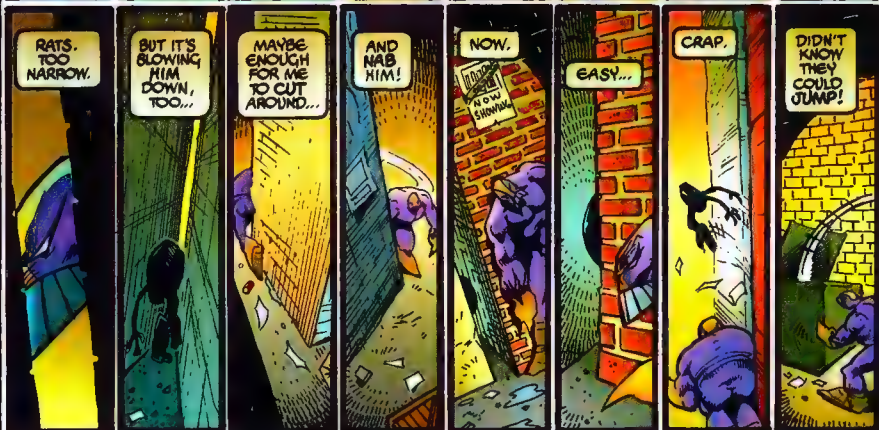
AND WHAT'S HE DOING WITH TWO PHONES?!

AND WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE NOTICE HE'S ONLY A FOOT AND A HALF HIGH?

HE'S ONE OF THOSE UNDERGROUND THINGS, FROM MY DREAM.

ONLY BLACK.

AND FASTER.



RATS. TOO NARROW.

BUT IT'S SLOWING HIM DOWN, TOO...

MAYBE ENOUGH FOR ME TO CUT AROUND...

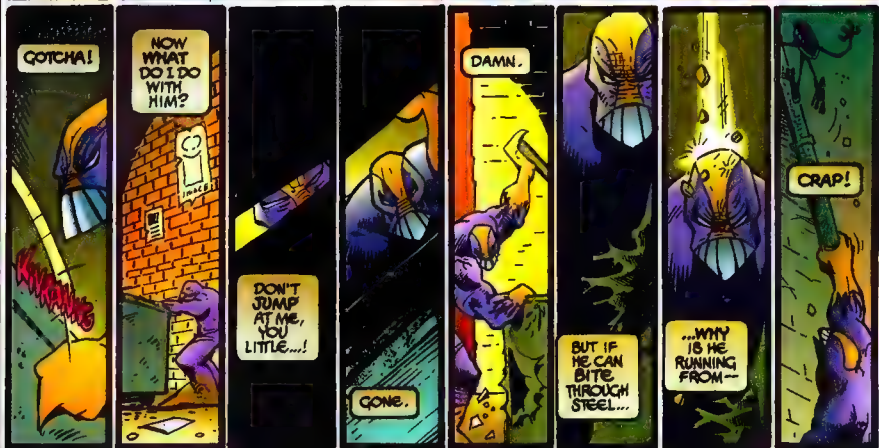
AND NAB HIM!

NOW.

EASY...

CRAP.

DIDN'T KNOW THEY COULD JUMP!



GOCHA!

NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH HIM?

DON'T JUMP AT ME, YOU LITTLE...!

GONE.


DAMN.

BUT IF HE CAN BITE THROUGH STEEL...

...WHY IS HE RUNNING FROM—


CRAP!





YOU REALLY
DON'T REMEMBER ANY
SF IT? NOT THE GIRL
OR THE ISZ OR THE
BLOODWORMS
OR ME.

THEN IT WASN'T
ALL A DREAM!
UNLESS I WAS
DREAMING NOW.




TOO BAD.
I NORMALLY
HATE KILLING
AMNESIACS.



MEEP!

OH, GOD.
NOW I
REMEMBER



IT WAS ALL COMING BACK
TO ME. I COULD FEEL THE
HOT SUN ON MY BACKSKIN
AND THE GRASSES UNDER
MY TOES.

THOSE LITTLE CREATURES
WERE HOT, BUT TWISTED
AND CHANCED BY BEING
MOVED TO THIS WORLD.

TRUE
ENSAIGH, TOS
SAID YOU'LL BE
EATEN BEFORE
YOU'LL HAVE A
CHANCE TO
MUTTER THIS
TO ANYONE!

DAMN...
STILL
TALKING
OUT LOUD!

NEXT MONTH
STAINED TEETH. DEADLY TEETH!

YOUR COOL IDEA GOES HERE!

O.K. here we go. You know the drill. Send in cool ideas for the name of the Maxx letter column to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, #1-285, Fair Oaks, California 95628. The winner will get 10, yes, 8-O.K....5, well, how about one glow-in-the-dark Maxx #1 and something else (which I haven't figured out yet).

I'd like to thank all the people that helped me put out this comic book on time. it wasn't easy.

I got three letters so far...

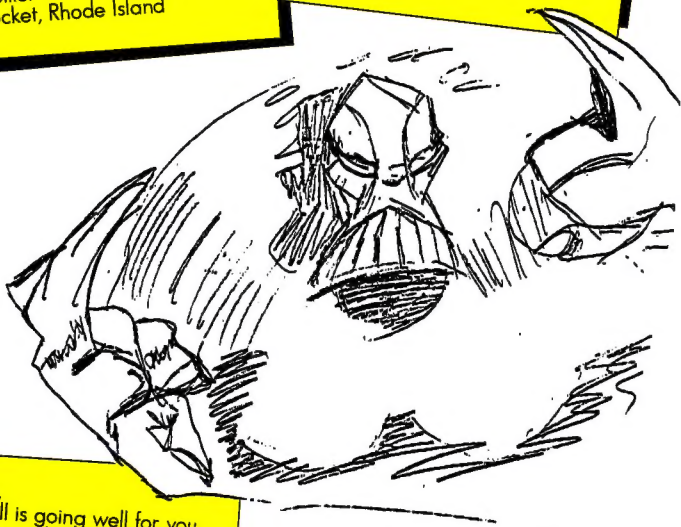
Dear Mr. Kieth,
I have been following your career since Incredible Hulk #368...! am anxiously awaiting The Maxx. I would like to wish you the best of luck in the future.

Sincerely,
Eddie Tellier
Woodsocket, Rhode Island

Dear Sam,
The Maxx has not come out yet near me, but I hear it's going to be really good. I love Gruesome Characters like that...

Jeff Weiner
Forest Hills, New York

Thanks for sending in the cool Maxx picture!!



Dear sir,
I hope all is going well for you today. I have been following many of [your] comics for some years and greatly admire your artwork- it's so cool!!!...Thank you so much for your time. Keep up the great work!!

Sincerely,
Sue Kroner
Melbourne, Florida

WEINER TS